

The Messenger

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

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January 2020

Pastor's Note

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you, your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."
Ezekiel 36:26

The **New Year** is a wonderful time to reflect and commit to a fresh start. A fresh and new start where we can allow ourselves to have a more open mind, and heart through the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives and the world.

As we enter into 2020, this can also be a good time to reflect on where we have been, what we have said, and done to reveal God's wonder of a new heart. I say God's wonder because a new heart is all about God's love for all creation.

Growing up in a community of faith, I felt blessed to know that God can undo the wrong we have done and make something beautiful out of our lives. Most of all, God can take away hearts that have rebelled, hearts that have become stony and give each of us a new heart as well as put a new spirit within us.

We have just survived the busyness of Christmas and are now in a new year. Isn't this an amazing wonder of God's grace? And yes, God has made a covenant with us that we can and will have new hearts.

As I fell asleep on the last night of 2019, I was still grateful to God. Now, not knowing what this year will bring, what the future holds, I can still say God has given us another opportunity. But the question is always, "what can we do with another opportunity and a new heart?"

Each of us may have a different answer but I believe that we can make a difference with hearts of flesh; hearts that are necessary, hearts that feel, hearts that can live with hope and hearts that can choose love over hate. Only then, can our hearts truly beat again with joy rather than just existing on earth and occupying space in our bodies.

Let us accept a fresh start, accept a new heart, accept a new spirit and claim real and abundant life to move forward this year as we trade in our hearts of stone. As we do, we can count our blessing in hope of new things

God will do for us, in us, our families, our churches, our communities and the world. Therefore, my prayer is that the miracle of Christmas will remain with us this year and all the years ahead.

Happy New Year with blessings for all of us!

-Pastor Alecia

NATICK ANNUAL COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

The 15th annual celebration of The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. event will be held on Monday, January 20, 2020 at 10:00 AM at the Wilson Middle School Auditorium. All persons are welcome to this celebration with invitation to the cafeteria after for fellowship and service opportunities for all ages.

At the celebration we will have groups from the Middle & High Schools, including the Johnson Elementary School "Peacemakers" and a keynote presentation by Rev. Dr. Ray Hammond. He is co-founder of Bethel A.M.E. in Boston. The son of a Baptist preacher and a schoolteacher in Philadelphia, Rev. Hammond attended public schools before earning degrees from Harvard College and Harvard Medical School. He later earned a master's degree in religion, focusing on Christian and medical ethics, from Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

Rev. Hammond is co-founder and chairman of the Ten Point Coalition, an ecumenical group of Christian clergy and lay leaders mobilizing the Greater Boston community around issues affecting black and Latino youth; an Executive Committee member of the Black Ministerial Alliance; chair of the Boston Opportunity Agenda; a Strategy Team member of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization; and a member of the Boston Green Ribbon Commission. He also serves as a trustee of the Yawkey Foundation, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, BMC Health System, and the MATCH School. He previously served as chairman of The Boston Foundation. Rev. Hammond is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and is the recipient of numerous honors and honorary doctorates. We welcome Rev. Dr. Hammond this year to Natick.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Our Adult Sunday morning bible study will continue with the Book of Leviticus on January 12 at 9:15 a.m.

For Personal Reflection & Spiritual growth

For continuous spiritual growth and reflection, read the following Scriptures that have been selected for our worship this month.

Jan. 5	Isaiah 60:1-6	Matthew 2:1-12
Jan. 12	Ezekiel 36:22-32	Matthew 3:13-17
Jan. 19	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	John 1: 29-42
Jan. 26	1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Matthew 4: 12-23

COMING IN FEBRUARY

Community screening of the film "I'm Not a Racist.....Am I?" This film is about how over the course of a school year, a diverse group of remarkable youth and their families plunges into a yearlong journey to get at the heart of racism. And by the end of their time together, they develop stronger bonds, greater resolve and a more significant definition of racism than any of us can ever imagine. Watch out for more details.

Worship Team

Happy New Year 2020 to all!!

Sunday, January 5 will be our celebration for Epiphany —when the wise men reached Jesus to praise him and give gifts.

Alternative Worship – January 19 at 4:30 p.m.
Many blessings to all of you in this new season.

Diane French, Worship Chair

The 2020 Altar Flower Calendar

The 2020 Altar Flower Chart is now posted on the bulletin board outside the church office. If you would like to remember or honor someone special with altar flowers during the coming year, please sign-up. Thank you to those who donated flowers in 2019, and helped us to beautify God's sanctuary. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Beekman, Altar Guild Chairperson at (508) 647-4004, tjbbeekman@gmail.com



Recipe for a New Year

Take twelve whole months. Clean them thoroughly of all bitterness, hate, and jealousy. Make them just as fresh and clean as possible. Now cut each month into twenty-eight, thirty, or thirty-one different parts, but don't make up the whole batch at once. Prepare it one day at a time out of these ingredients: Mix well into each day one part of faith, one part of patience, one part of courage, and one part of work. Add to each day one part of hope, faithfulness, generosity, and kindness. Blend with one part prayer, one part meditation, and one good deed. Season the whole with a dash of good spirits, a sprinkle of fun, a pinch of play, and a cupful of good humor. Pour all of this into a vessel of love. Cook thoroughly over radiant joy, garnish with a smile, and serve with quietness, unselfishness, and cheerfulness. You're bound to have a happy new year! The author of this piece is unknown, but the author of your life is known. We hope you have an amazing 2020 with God, and Fisk! "We are here because we care."

Family Promise

Since our last host week in September, positive things have been happening for families. Wally and his three children moved into their own place in November, and in December Josef and Jane became US citizens. Your support made a difference in their lives and on their behalf- THANKS.

Our next host week is just around the corner. **Guests will arrive on Sunday January 26th** for a one week stay. As always, your help in preparing and serving meals, covering an overnight shift, setting up rooms or laundering sheets will be greatly appreciated.

Please sign up on CERVIS (accessed by link through the Family Promise website) or by contacting Debbie Friscino directly at fris@rcn.com. If you are unable to help this week, mark the weeks of May 24th and September 20th on your calendar as they complete our 2020 host weeks.

Stewardship

"When we are living out our faith according to God's Word, strangers will come, stay and help us." Have a welcoming spirit and faith in your gifts!

Thank You

For your support in 2019.

Missions & Outreach

Things you'll never regret!

Ministry of Caring

As we all set goals and plans for a new year, let us remember these thoughts.

Praying
 Putting your phone down
 Listening over talking
 Visit an elderly person, grandparents, or neighbor
 Reading the Bible
 Kindness on Social Media
 Helping at the Food Pantry or Family Promise
 Investing in memories over things
 Thankfulness over comparison
 Helping those in need
 Taking the higher road
 Forgiving others
 Forgiving yourself
 Be a mentor
 Doing that scary thing
 Give to groups that are making a difference
 Drinking more water
 Participate in a new group
 Saying "I love you"
 Trusting God



What are your interests? Do you have an idea or project for the Missions Committee? We want to support your ideas when possible and appropriate. Let one of us know what you would like us to focus on in 2020.

Missions Committee: Marcia Hoyt, Janis Cail, Susan Carney, Mary Greenwood, and Janis Townsend

UMW Hannah Circle

The "Hannah Bananas" will begin the new year with a class on Mission Giving at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 14, in Ogle Parlor. Please bring your lunch (sandwich/salad) and beverages and dessert will be provided. **All women are invited!** Janis Cail, our UMW Vice-President and a member of the Susanna Circle will be our guest speaker as we learn about the agencies and groups that we financially and prayerfully support in our UMW. Please contact Nancy Parece or Nancy Swan if you can attend.

United Methodist Women

CONGRATULATIONS!

The United Methodist Women have elected their new officers for 2020. Help us support them and make this another wonderful year for this group. Want to join us?

All women are encouraged to attend our meetings. Membership is open to all who commit to the purpose, pray for the work, contribute time and giving to the Mission Work of the United Methodist Women and state their intent to one of us.

President	Susan
Carney	
Vice President	Janis Cail
Secretary	
Treasurer	Sherry Culver
Program Resources	Terry Ames
Education	Marcia Hoyt
Nurture & Outreach	Janis Townsend
Social Action	
Spiritual Growth	Barbara Beekman
Local Church	Ainslee Wicks
Nominating Committee (3)	



Anything here that interests you ... as a way to serve women, youth, and children around the world? Call Janis Cail.

Turn in your Mission pledges to Sherry. Terry reminds us to turn in our Reading List for 2019.

We have three "circle" groups that meet monthly.

Hannah's	2 nd Tuesdays at noon (Debi H.)
Susanna's	2 nd Thursdays at noon (Janis C.)
Joanna's	as scheduled (Amy B.)

January is the month of Installation and a Luncheon for all women to be introduced to our programming for 2020. See you there!

January Worship Assistants

<u>Jan</u>	<u>Liturgists</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
5	Dorothy Phillips	
12	Kate Day	
19	Jennifer French	Dwayne S.
26	Crystal Mayo	Danny J.
5	<u>Communion:</u>	Susan & Tom Carney
19	<u>Psalter:</u>	Sarah F.

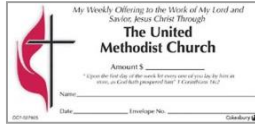


Finance

Special Note about Year-End Giving:

If you'd like an up-to-date contribution statement for year-end gift planning, contact me and I'll send one along to you.

Offering Envelopes for 2020 will be available to pick up on December 29. If you do not see a set of envelopes with your name and you would like to use them, please contact Crystal Mayo CrystalJP@yahoo.com.



For those of you who do not use offering envelopes – Please note your giving number on your check. This simple notation helps our Sunday morning tellers properly record your gifts to ministry.

Youth News

For Fisk youth and their friends in Grades 6—12

YOUTH & FAMILY NIGHT

January 3, 2020, 6:30-9:00 p.m. in Whipple Hall

Enjoy dinner games, fellowship, food, and fun with members of the Fisk family. Please let Tian or Bingxin know if you plan to attend.

zhangtian96@gmail.com (734) 883-0093.

Next MYF meeting at Fisk Church

Sunday, January 19, 12:00 PM


Friends are always welcome to attend MYF meetings and events. Please use this link to view pictures and schedule updates.

<http://www.fiskumc.org/youth-and-children.html>

February Messenger

Deadline

9:00 a.m. - January 24th

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 9:00 AM Worship Choir 10:30 AM WORSHIP followed by Time of Fellowship 11:30 AM Children's Choir	30 7:00 PM A Cappella	31	1  10:00 AM Prayer Shawl	2	3 6:30 PM Youth and Family Night	4
5 9:00 AM Worship Choir 9:15 AM Bible Study/Sunday School 10:30 AM WORSHIP followed by Time of Fellowship 11:30 AM Children's Choir 12:00 PM Trustees 4:00 PM Girl Scouts 82803	6 7:00 PM A Cappella	7	8 10:00 AM Music Lessons (Noel) 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl 7:00 PM Susanna Circle	9	10	11 8:00 AM UMW Conf. Team 1:30 PM Girl Scouts 62383
12 9:00 AM Worship Choir 9:15 AM Bible Study/Sunday School 10:30 AM WORSHIP followed by Time of Fellowship 11:30 AM Children's Choir	13 7:00 PM A Cappella 7:00 PM FACE Board 7:00 PM Finance Comm.	14 11:30 AM Hannah Circle 6:00 PM Girl Scouts 68192	15 10:00 AM Music Lessons (Noel) 10:00 AM NWC- Board 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl	16	17	18
19 9:00 AM Worship Choir 9:15 AM Bible Study/Sunday School 10:30 AM WORSHIP followed by Time of Fellowship 11:30 AM Children's Choir 4:30 PM Adaptive Worship 4:30 PM Adaptive Worship	20 7:00 PM A Cappella	21 7:30 PM COM	22 10:00 AM Music Lessons (Noel) 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl	23	24 Messenger Deadline	25
26 9:00 AM Worship Choir 9:15 AM Bible Study/Sunday School 10:30 AM WORSHIP followed by Time of Fellowship 11:30 AM Children's Choir	27 4:00 PM UMW Exec. Board 6:00 PM Girl Scouts 68192 7:00 PM A Cappella	28 7:00 PM SPRC	29 10:00 AM Music Lessons (Noel) 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl	30	31	1

